



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Don Young
Chairman

James L. Oberstar
Ranking Democratic Member

March 16, 2004

Lloyd A. Jones, Chief of Staff
Elizabeth Megginson, Chief Counsel

David Heymsfeld, Democratic Chief of Staff

The Honorable William M. Thomas
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

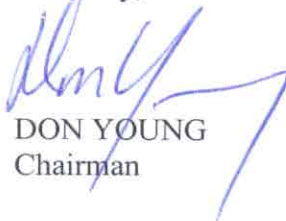
Dear Chairman Thomas:

On March 16, 2004, you introduced the Highway Reauthorization Tax Act of 2004, a bill that would grow the Highway Trust Fund by restructuring ethanol subsidies and combating fuel tax evasion. I urge enactment of these provisions as soon as possible. As a result, **I support your proposal to include these fuel tax provisions in the American Jobs Creation Act**, which will be scheduled for floor consideration in the near future.

The Highway Reauthorization Tax Act of 2004 would increase Highway Trust Fund receipts by approximately \$1 billion over the next 4 months and by almost \$17 billion over the next 6 years. The sooner these provisions are enacted into law, the sooner they can be used to improve highway infrastructure and create jobs.

These provisions will help fund a 6-year highway reauthorization bill regardless of which legislative vehicle carries them to the President's desk. The legislative vehicle is not important, but timing is. I urge you to support the inclusion of these provisions in the *American Jobs Creation Act*, so they may be signed into law at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,



DON YOUNG
Chairman